



IN ARKANSAS, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$278.3 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 4,100 EDUCATOR JOBS

The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will save or create nearly 400,000 education jobs through critical investments in the education of our nation's children. Specifically, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will invest \$30 billion to support state and local efforts to retain, rehire, and hire early childhood, elementary, and secondary educators. Facing an \$87 million projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Arkansas teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Arkansas with an additional \$278.3 million in funds that will support 4,100 education jobs, provide a jolt to the state economy, and improve the quality of education. By asking millionaires to pay their fair share, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will grow the Arkansas economy without adding a dime to the deficit.

Arkansas Budget Shortfall Forced State To Slash Education Spending by 5 Percent. As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Arkansas faces a projected budget shortfall of \$87 million in 2013, 1.9% of the state's General Fund. Given the dramatic reduction in state revenue, the state was forced to slash funding for educational programs and services. In Arkansas, elementary and high schools are currently receiving 5% less state funding this year than in 2008. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/17/11](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#)]

Democrats Helped Arkansas Avoid an Even Worse Situation. Preventing Potential Layoffs. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 1,800 education jobs in Arkansas. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]